NH-75 (Extn.) and 4 km. of NH-215. The reconstruction works of bridge at Km. 98.958 and at km. 154.85 of NH-215 are also under way. To check the menace of over-loaded vehicles on NHs, State Government has already been sensitized to take appropriate actions as per the provisions of law. However, within the available funds efforts are made to keep the NHs in traffic worthy condition.

(c) and (d) As per the last traffic survey conducted, 12748 Passenger Car Unit (PCU) were recorded on NH-215 at the traffic count station in \Keonjhar district. Due to increase in mining activities in and around Keonjhar district, the traffic intensity on this National Highway has seen unprecedented growth during last two years which sometimes results in congestion specially during rainy season. In view of increased traffic volume on NH-215, this National Highway has been included in National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-Ill for four laning by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). NHAI has gone ahead with the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and also initiated actions to obtain necessary approval of Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC). In the meantime as an interim measure to provide relief to road traffic on this National Highway, works for improvement of Riding Quality have been sanctioned in an aggregated length of 33.30 km. for an amount of Rs. 13.55 crore. In addition, 7 proposals for improvement works in an aggregated length of 54.85 km. have been received from State Public Works Department (PWD) of Orissa under current Annual plan for concurrence of the Ministry.

Stray cattle causing accidents on NHs

37. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that stray cattle-cows, bulls, pigs, sheep, etc. roam about freely on roads and highways, thus becoming a traffic hazard and, at times, accidents take place due to their movement in the middle of the roads;

(b) if so, whether any practical remedy has been thought of to eliminate this dangerous trend, especially in view of massive programme of Government to build highways as also roads to connect even small villages; and

(c) whether the NGOs working towards safety and well-being of animals have come up with any such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On expressways, restrictions are imposed on access of stray animals on the roads by fencing throughout the length. It is not possible to restrict the movement of animals on National Highways. However provision of underpasses for cattle crossings, guard rail, fencing and crash barriers at certain locations on National Highways, help in restricting the movement of stray animals.

(c) No, Sir.

Availability of Scientists/Engineers

38. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO could manage to get only 60 per cent of the scientists/ engineers during the last few years in view of very less availability of science stream students in the country;